



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Greater Amberjack Study Seeks Commercial Fishermen March, April & May 2003

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) are conducting a life history study on greater amberjack (AJ). Samples are needed for March, April and May (which includes the spawning season closure in April) in the region of Key Largo, Florida. We are seeking four fishermen to help provide samples of whole fish in this cooperative research.

- Fishermen must have a Federal snapper-grouper permit.
- Fishermen will be randomly selected from the pool of applicants. If a selected fishermen is unable to collect AJ samples, another individual will be randomly selected.
- All fishermen expressing interest in this project will be reviewed by the NOAA Fisheries law enforcement division for any fishery violations.
- Selected fishermen will be included in a NOAA Fisheries Letter of Acknowledgment (LOA).
- Fishermen must allow a biologist to sample greater amberjack before being processed and sold during the open season. Selected fishermen will be limited to a specific number of AJ samples.
- During open season, fishermen will be paid \$8 for each AJ sampled (removal of hard parts and reproductive tissue). All AJ can be sold after biologist's work is complete.
- During April (closed season) SCDNR will pay \$1.25/lb for whole fish sampled. A biologist must

be present when selected fishermen bring AJ to the dock. All AJ landed during April must be delivered filleted to a specific charity. Greater amberjack can not be sold during April.

- The total number of AJ landed per month (March, April and May) will be 125-150. Once quota has been met, no more AJ will be accepted.
- All fishermen approved for the LOA, and agreeing to the above conditions will be contacted.

If interested in participating in this study, please contact Byron White at (843) 953-9064 or Patrick Harris at (843) 953-9058 or FAX (843) 953-9820 with the following information by January 31, 2003.

Captain's Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Vessel Name:

USCG Doc. No. (or State No.)

Vessel Owner (if different from Captain:

Address:

Phone Number:

To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.